



Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Office of Court Interpreting Services



OCIS Structure

- Special Operations Division
 - Office of Court Interpreting Services
 - ASL coordinator
 - Foreign language coordinator
 - Spanish court interpreter
 - Freelancers



Services Provided

- Interpreting services
- Translations
- Maintain list of qualified interpreters
- Test and qualify interpreters
- Orientation of new interpreters
- Training of interpreters
- Orientation of court personnel



Language Access Requirements

- Criminal
- Civil
- Family
- Probate
- Domestic Violence Unit



Challenges

- Languages of lesser diffusion
 - Availability?
 - Qualified interpreters?
- Coordination with outside agencies
- Training of court staff
- Information about our services



Statistics

- Events served (by fiscal year):

■ 1987:	842
■ 2004:	5,614
■ 2007:	7,337
■ 2008:	7,929



Languages served

- Languages (FY 2008): **36**
- **2008**: Spanish, Amharic, Vietnamese, French, Korean, Mandarin
- **2007**: Spanish, Amharic, Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, French
- **2004**: Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic, Korean, Mandarin, Arabic



Success Stories

- NCSC Survey: **Serving Limited English Proficient Battered Women: A National Survey of the Court's Capacity to Provide Protection Orders** (2006)
- D.C. Courts Website: Top Ten award worldwide (2006): "...The ability to accommodate multiple languages to better serve a culturally diverse jurisdiction sets this site apart from the competition." (Justice Served website)



The Day-to-Day

- Interpreters listed: 131
- Requests served (May, FY2008 sample):
 - Week: 102
 - Month: 754
 - Year: 7,929
- Have requests increased? Yes:
 - FY 2008 (Oct – May): 5188
 - FY 2009 (Oct – May): 5958



New Developments

- Infrared/wireless devices
 - 2 channels:
 - 1 for hearing-impaired,
 - 1 for foreign languages
- Telephone interpreting
- Data gathering and reporting program



D.C. Courts:

Open to All.

Trusted by All.

Justice for All.